

Adopt Chapter Env-A 4800 to read as follows:

CHAPTER Env-A 4800 CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) ALLOWANCE AUCTION PROGRAM

PART Env-A 4801 PURPOSE; APPLICABILITY; DEFINITIONS

Env-A 4801.01 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the administration and implementation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) allowance auctions under RSA 125-O:19-28 and Env-A 4600, Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Budget Trading Program.

Env-A 4801.02 Applicability. The rules in this chapter shall apply to all auctions held under the authority of RSA 125-O:19-28.

Env-A 4801.03 Definitions Incorporated. The definitions established in Env-A 4600 and Env-A 4700 shall apply to this chapter.

Env-A 4801.04 Additional Definitions Specific to Chapter Env-A 4800.

(a) “Ascending price, multiple-round auction” means an auction that is anticipated to comprise more than one round, in which:

- (1) Each round starts with an opening price, which increases each round by predetermined increments;
- (2) In each round, bidders offer the quantity of allowances they are willing to purchase at the posted price for that round; and
- (3) Rounds continue so long as demand exceeds the quantity offered for sale.

(b) “Current market reserve price (CMRP)” means the monetary amount calculated to be 80 percent of the current market price as defined in Env-A 4602.

(c) “Department contact person” means the employee of the department designated to communicate with the public regarding the auctions to be conducted pursuant to this chapter, as identified on the CO₂ allowance auction website.

(d) “CO₂ allowance auction website” means the website containing information regarding the auctions to be conducted pursuant to this chapter, which is available through a link from the department’s main website at <http://www.des.nh.gov>.

(e) “Reserve price” means the minimum acceptable price for each CO₂ allowance in a specific auction.

(f) “Single-round sealed-bid uniform price auction” means an auction that has a single round, in which bidders submit one or more bids at different prices and the price paid by all successful bidders is uniform and equal to the highest rejected bid price.

PART Env-A 4802 IMPLEMENTATION OF CO₂ ALLOWANCE AUCTIONS

Env-A 4802.01 Design, Implementation, and Administration of Allowance Auctions. The NH authority shall design, implement, and administer CO₂ allowance auctions in accordance with the objectives identified in RSA 125-O:19-28 and the provisions of this chapter.

Env-A 4802.02 New Hampshire Auction Account.

(a) The department shall establish the New Hampshire auction account (NHAA) as the repository for all CO₂ allowances that are available for auction, including but not limited to allowances from the CO₂ budget trading program base budget not otherwise allocated or granted or reserved under RSA 125-O:22, VI, RSA 125-O:24, or RSA 125-O:25.

(b) The NH authority shall administer the NHAA such that allowances allocated to the NHAA by the department are made available for sale in CO₂ allowance auctions as described in this chapter.

Env-A 4802.03 Multi-State Auctions. The department shall participate in a multi-state CO₂ allowance auction if the department determines that:

(a) Multi-state auction capabilities and processes are in place for the participating states;

(b) A multi-state auction can provide benefits that meet or exceed the objectives of the auction and purposes of the NHAA, as described in this part; and

(c) The multi-state auction process would be consistent with the process described in this part.

Env-A 4802.04 Single-State Auctions. The department shall conduct a New Hampshire-only, single-state auction if, in consultation with the Air Pollution Advisory Committee (APAC) established by RSA 125-J:11, it determines that:

(a) The conditions specified in Env-A 4802.03 have not been satisfied; and

(b) Budget allowances other than those granted or reserved under RSA 125-O:22, VI, RSA 125-O:24, or RSA 125-O:25 are available for auction.

Env-A 4802.05 Auction Proceeds.

(a) As required by RSA 125-O:21, III, the proceeds of CO₂ allowance auctions shall be deposited into the greenhouse gas emissions reduction fund established under RSA 125-O:23.

(b) The proceeds of the CO₂ allowance auctions shall be used by the New Hampshire public utilities commission (PUC) as specified in RSA 125-O:23, and shall not be commingled with other PUC funds.

PART Env-A 4803 CO₂ ALLOWANCE AUCTIONS: COMMENCEMENT; FREQUENCY; QUANTITY; RESERVE PRICE; BIDDING; UNSOLD ALLOWANCES

Env-A 4803.01 Commencement of CO₂ Allowance Auctions.

(a) Upon allocation of CO₂ allowances into the NHAA, the NH authority shall participate in or conduct CO₂ allowance auctions to sell such allowances pursuant to this chapter.

(b) The initial auction shall be conducted at such time and manner as determined by the NH authority.

(c) The initial auction shall be conducted as a single-round sealed-bid uniform price auction.

(d) Subsequent auctions shall be either a single-round sealed-bid uniform price auction or an

ascending price, multiple-round auction.

Env-A 4803.02 Frequency of CO₂ Allowance Auctions.

- (a) Subject to (b), below, CO₂ allowance auctions shall be held quarterly,
- (b) The department shall consult with the APAC prior to changing the frequency to other than quarterly.

Env-A 4803.03 Calendar of CO₂ Allowance Auctions.

- (a) The NH authority shall maintain a calendar of anticipated auction dates on the CO₂ allowance auction website.
- (b) The calendar shall include the dates of at least the next 4 CO₂ allowance auctions and, for each, indicate the auction format and the number of allowances and allocation years of allowances anticipated to be auctioned at each auction.
- (c) The NH authority shall revise the calendar as necessary, provided that the information relevant to the next scheduled CO₂ allowance auction shall be fixed no later than 45 calendar days prior to such auction.

Env-A 4803.04 CO₂ Allowance Auction Notice.

- (a) A CO₂ allowance auction notice shall be published on the CO₂ allowance auction website no later than 45 days prior to the date upon which the auction shall be conducted. The CO₂ allowance auction notice shall be transmitted electronically to any person who has requested such notification and submitted an electronic-mail address to the department contact person or the NH authority.
- (b) Each CO₂ allowance auction notice shall provide a specific description of all auction participation requirements, including, but not limited to, information including the date, time and location of the CO₂ allowance auction, the categories of bidders who will be eligible to bid, the quantity of CO₂ allowances to be auctioned by allocation year, the auction format, the amount and type of financial security required, any participation limitations, information regarding settling and clearing of allowance payments, instructions as to qualification applications, other pertinent procedures of the auction, and identification of a department contact person for further information.

Env-A 4803.05 Quantity of CO₂ Allowances Available.

- (a) Prior to the end of each control period, CO₂ allowances in a quantity equal to the number of CO₂ allowances allocated by the department to the NHAA in accordance with RSA 125-O:26 for such control period shall be made available for sale.
- (b) CO₂ allowances shall be made available for sale by allocation year. Allowances may be made available for sale up to 4 years in advance of such allocation year, however no more than 50 percent of the allowances from an allocation year shall be made available for sale in advance of the respective allocation year.

Env-A 4803.06 Lot Sizes. CO₂ allowances shall be made available for sale in lot sizes of 1,000 allowances, except where available supply requires a smaller lot size.

Env-A 4803.07 Reserve Price.

(a) In administering auctions, the NH authority shall publish or otherwise announce the auction's reserve price prior to each auction.

(b) Subject to (c), below, the reserve price shall be the higher of the minimum reserve price (MRP) or current market reserve price (CMRP).

(c) If the NH authority determines that there is not enough data to justify the calculation of a CMRP, the reserve price shall be the MRP.

Env-A 4803.08 Minimum Reserve Price (MRP).

(a) The MRP in calendar years 2008 and 2009 shall be \$1.86.

(b) For years subsequent to 2009, the MRP shall be established as of the first day of each calendar year, calculated as follows:

(1) "2009" means calendar year 2009;

(2) "n" means the number of years since 2009;

(3) "CPI(...)" means the CPI for the year determined by the calculation within the parentheses;

(4) "MRP(...)" means the MRP for the year determined by the calculation within the parentheses; and

(5) The MRP for a given year shall be the MRP for the immediately preceding calendar year multiplied by the quotient of the sum of one plus the difference of the CPI for the given year minus the CPI for the immediately preceding calendar year divided by the CPI for the immediately preceding calendar year, as illustrated by the following formula:

$$\text{MRP}(2009+n) = \text{MRP}(2009+(n-1)) \times \{1 + [\text{CPI}(2009+n) - \text{CPI}(2009+(n-1))]/\text{CPI}(2009+(n-1))\}$$

Env-A 4803.09 Bidding.

(a) All bids shall be in the format prescribed by the NH authority, which shall be available electronically on the CO₂ allowance auction website.

(b) All bids submitted shall be considered binding offers for the purchase of allowances under the rules of the auction, this chapter, and Env-A 4600.

(c) No single participant, nor any combination of participants that share beneficial ownership of any allowances, shall purchase, in the aggregate, greater than 25 percent of the allowances available at an auction.

Env-A 4803.10 Unsold Allowances. CO₂ allowances that remain unsold at the end of an auction shall be made available for sale in a subsequent auction.

PART Env-A 4804 AUCTION PARTICIPATION: ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATIONS

Env-A 4804.01 Participant Categories.

(a) Participant categories shall be as follows:

- (1) Owners of CO₂ budget units located in New Hampshire;
- (2) Owners of CO₂ budget units located outside of New Hampshire but within those participating states that have final CO₂ budget trading regulatory provisions in place at the time of the CO₂ allowance auction;
- (3) Owners of fossil fuel-fired generation units located outside of the participating states;
- (4) Brokers;
- (5) Environmental groups;
- (6) Financial and investment institutions; and
- (7) Other market participants.

(b) If the NH authority determines, based on the report submitted pursuant to Env-A 4805.02 or on other information received, that there has been or that a significant potential exists for collusion, market power, or price manipulation by any of the categories of eligible bidders listed above, the NH authority shall adjust the categories of eligible bidders as necessary to counter the collusion, market power, or price manipulation.

(c) Any limitations on the categories of eligible bidders shall be listed in the CO₂ allowance auction notice for that auction.

Env-A 4804.02 Participation Eligibility. Any person wishing to participate in a CO₂ allowance auction under the provisions of this chapter shall:

- (a) Open and maintain a compliance account or general account pursuant to Env-A 4607;
- (b) Submit an application for qualification as specified in Env-A 4804.03 and the CO₂ allowance auction notice, or, if the applicant was deemed qualified to participate for a prior auction, submit an update of any information that has changed since the original qualification;
- (c) Submit a notice of intent to bid as specified in the Env-A 4804.04 and the CO₂ allowance auction notice; and
- (d) Provide financial security as specified in Env-A 4804.06 and the CO₂ allowance auction notice.

Env-A 4804.03 Application for Qualification; Updates.

(a) Any person wishing to participate in a CO₂ allowance auction shall submit an application for qualification in the form and manner provided in the CO₂ allowance auction notice to the NH authority on or before the application deadline date specified in the CO₂ allowance auction notice, which date shall be no sooner than 15 days following the date of publication of the notice.

(b) Application information and forms shall be available electronically on the CO₂ allowance

auction website.

(c) The applicant shall provide information and documentation relating to its ability and authority to execute bids and honor contractual obligations, including but not limited to:

- (1) Information and documentation regarding the corporate identity, ownership, affiliations, and capital structure of the entity represented by the applicant;
- (2) Declarations as to the beneficial ownership of any allowance that may be acquired through the auction;
- (3) The identification of any indictment or felony conviction of any member, director, principal, partner, or officer of the applicant or any affiliate or related entity;
- (4) A statement by the applicant as to prior findings of non-responsibility or failure to secure financing with regard to any procurement by the applicant or the entity represented by the applicant or any affiliate or related entity associated with any commodity market or exchange;
- (5) The identification of any previous or pending investigation of the applicant or the entity represented by the applicant or any affiliate or related entity with respect to any alleged violation of any rule, regulation, or law associated with any commodity market or exchange;
- (6) Evidence demonstrating that the applicant has opened a general account or compliance account as specified in Env-A 4607; and
- (7) The identification of relationships with any other account holder.

(d) Once an applicant has been determined to be qualified to participate in an auction under Env-A 4804.05, the applicant shall update the information submitted with the original application for qualification prior to any auction in which the applicant wishes to participate. Such update shall include the date the change occurred and describe the change in sufficient detail to enable the NH Authority to determine whether a change in the qualification status to participate in future auctions is warranted.

Env-A 4804.04 Notice of Intent to Bid. Any person wishing to participate in a CO₂ allowance auction shall submit a notice of intent to bid:

- (a) In the format specified in the CO₂ allowance auction notice; and
- (b) By the deadline specified in the CO₂ allowance auction notice.

Env-A 4804.05 Review of Applications, Updates, and Notices of Intent to Bid.

(a) The NH Authority shall review each application for qualification, each update, and each notice of intent to bid that is submitted as specified in the CO₂ allowance auction notice.

(b) If a submittal is determined to be incomplete or if the information provided is insufficient to allow the NH authority to determine that the applicant is qualified to participate, the NH authority shall so inform the applicant and state the reason(s) therefore. An applicant whose submittal is determined to be incomplete or deficient shall be given no less than 5 business days and no more than 10 business days to provide additional information and to cure the deficiencies.

(c) In reviewing a submittal, the NH authority shall consider the information submitted by the applicant and any other information regarding the applicant that is known to the NH authority.

(d) The NH authority shall accept the submittal if the applicant demonstrates that it has the ability and authority to execute bids and honor contractual obligations.

(e) The NH authority shall notify the applicant of its decision. If the applicant is found to not be qualified to participate in the auction, the notice shall specify the reason(s) for the decision.

Env-A 4804.06 Financial Security.

(a) To receive approval to participate in any specific auction, otherwise qualified bidders shall provide financial security in the form and manner described in the CO₂ allowance auction notice.

(b) Any person who has posted financial security may request return of the financial security at any time prior to or following any CO₂ allowance auction. The NH authority shall return said financial security upon request, provided that the NH authority has no current or pending claim to such security as a result of a failure of the person to comply with these rules or to pay the full amount of an accepted bid when due. If the request for return of financial security is made prior to the auction, the request shall be deemed a withdrawal from participating in that auction.

(c) Participation in any auction shall be limited to the level of financial security provided by the participant.

(d) If a bidder's offer is accepted in a CO₂ allowance auction and the bidder fails to tender payment of the full amount when due, the NH Authority shall retain that portion of the financial security needed to cover the full amount owed by the bidder.

PART Env-A 4805 AUCTION MONITORING AND REPORTING; TRANSFER OF CO₂ ALLOWANCES

Env-A 4805.01 Auction and Secondary Market Monitoring.

(a) The NH authority shall engage a professional independent auction monitor, such as a certified public accounting firm or similar entity, to observe and report on the conduct and outcome of each auction.

(b) The auction monitor shall:

(1) Monitor each CO₂ allowance auction;

(2) Monitor allowance market data and information, including allowance transactions and associated pricing reported in the CO₂ allowance tracking system and other relevant data and information; and

(3) Develop and apply data collection methods, metrics, and analytic techniques, and thresholds for identifying any bidding behavior or activity that might have a significant impact on the efficiency and performance of such auctions, including, but not limited to, collusion, market power, or price manipulation.

Env-A 4805.02 Reporting by Auction Monitor. The auction monitor shall submit a written report to the NH authority, prepared in accordance with professional auditing standards, which discusses:

(a) Whether the auction was conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures in the associated Notice of CO₂ allowance auction; and

(b) Whether any behavior or activity as described in Env-A 4805.01(b)(3) may be interfering with the goal of ensuring fair competition, efficient pricing, and protection against collusive or manipulative behavior in the CO₂ allowance auctions and the CO₂ budget trading program.

Env-A 4805.03 Transfer of CO₂ Allowances. Upon receipt of the report from the auction monitor and payment in full by successful bidders, the NH authority shall transfer the corresponding CO₂ allowances to each successful bidder's compliance or general account, as specified by the bidder.

APPENDIX

Rule Section(s)	State or Federal Statute or Federal Regulation Implemented
Env-A 4800	RSA 125-O:19; RSA 125-O:21, III; RSA 125-O:26